

Missoula City Council Public Works Committee Minutes

**October 27, 2021, 10:25 am
ZOOM Webinar**

Members present: Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra (chair), John P. Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, Heidi West

Members absent: Jesse Ramos, Bryan von Lossberg

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

1.2.1 PW Committee Minutes 10/20/2021

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 Purchase of Fencing for Authorized Camping Site & Garden City Compost

Dale Bickell, Chief Administrative officer, presenting,

This contract is with Grizzly Fence for \$41,410 to fence the authorized camping site. The fence comes in two parts, the first is temporary fencing around the authorized camping site to provide security and privacy slats. The second part is permanent fencing along the Garden City Compost site, coming out of the Public Works Budget. The City did receive two quotes, and Grizzly Fence was the lowest quote and would get it completed sooner. The property for the authorized camping site is located North of Garden City Compost on city land. The camping site has some unusable land that is considered flood plain. This space will accommodate 35 sites that are 10 by 10 in size. Port-a-Potties, a handwashing station, and garbage containers will also be located on the site.

Ms. Anderson asked what would be done to provide warmth to the people who will be spending a good portion of the winter camping here. Montana James from Housing and Community Development answered that the City and County are working on those issues now. She added that they have other locations at the Poverello and the Johnson Street Community Center as warmer options for people. Ms. Anderson commented that having on-site caseworkers at the other camping location has been beneficial and asked if this location would have that. Ms. James said they are working with Partnership Health Center to get people hired as a team available to go between all shelter locations. She also explained that security would be present at this authorized campsite.

Ms. Sherrill asked if 35 campsites were going to be enough. Ms. James replied that every year is different, but the City feels this will be enough with the addition of Johnson Street as well. They will keep reevaluating the situation.

Ms. James said the City is working with neighboring businesses, which is limited in this area. Ms. Vasecka asked the Housing and Community Development to keep an open-door policy with the businesses. Ms. Merritt committed that this is going to be an improvement on the uncontrolled camping that is happening in that area now.

Moved by: Julie Merritt

Approve the purchase and installation of fencing from Grizzly Fence for the authorized camping site and Garden City Compost for a total price of \$41,410.

AYES: (10): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (2): Jesse Ramos, and Bryan von Lossberg

Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)

3.2 Professional Services Agreement with IMEG for East Front St Water Main Replacement

Andy Schultz City Engineer for Utilities presenting,

This professional services agreement is for a water main replacement on East Front Street from Madison to Jackson. This area has been split into priority one and priority two sections. The water main in this section is old and all types of water main. These mains are likely leaking and have served its useful life. The total project cost is \$84,840.00 and will come out of the water enterprise fund.

Moved by: Amber Sherrill

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a professional services agreement with IMEG for a water main replacement on East Front Street from Madison to Jackson at a cost not to exceed \$84,840.00

AYES: (9): Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (3): Stacie Anderson, Jesse Ramos, and Bryan von Lossberg

Vote results: Approved (9 to 0)

3.3 Professional Services Agreement with IMEG for Urban Renewal District III Water and Sidewalk Projects

Andy Schultz City Engineer for Utilities presenting,

This agreement is for the design and construction of sidewalks and water mains. The streets included will be Montana, Idaho, Inez, and Dakota. The Missoula Redevelopment Agency (MRA) has established this area as lacking in sidewalks. This area is also in

need of new water mains, which inhibit any new infrastructure. Therefore, the City of Missoula has entered into an agreement with MRA where MRA will fund this project. Ms. Jones added she is glad to see this come through. She thanked Emily Gibson and worked hard to get sidewalks going in this area, started when she was on City Council. Ms. Jones said this area needs some attention. Ms. Vasecka commented that she has been frustrated with the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) money in the past because she believes that it should be used on streets and sidewalks. So she is glad to see a project where these funds will be used properly. She added that this area really needs sidewalks.

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a professional services agreement with IMEG for the Urban Renewal District III Water and Sidewalk Project at a cost not to exceed \$172,785.

AYES: (10): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (2): Jesse Ramos, and Bryan von Lossberg

Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)

3.4 Establishing a Temporary Speed Limit of George Elmer Drive

Jordan Hess presenting,

George Elmer Drive is located off Mullan Road in the area of 44 Ranch Estates. This area is part of the Mullan BUILD Grant project that will be implemented soon. The neighborhood is getting frustrated with vehicles leaving the construction site at a high rate of speed. The implementation of this temporary speed limit would help increase safety in this neighborhood. The speed limit would be reduced from 40 mph to 30 mph. Mr. Slovarp City Surface Engineer explained that a speed study would be completed for this street within about six months. With this, he hopes to have a permeant speed limit set before the construction is completed.

Moved by: Amber Sherrill

Authorize the Mayor to direct Public Works & Mobility staff to conduct a speed study for the entirety of George Elmer Drive, between the limits of Mullan Road to the south and Pius Way to the north, and set a temporary speed limit for the same at 30 mph.

AYES: (10): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (2): Jesse Ramos, and Bryan von Lossberg

Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)

3.5 Establishing a Temporary Speed Limit on Upper Miller Creek Drive

Stacie Anderson presenting,

Ms. Anderson explained she has heard from several constituents concerned about the speeds on Upper Miller Creek Road. The existing speed limit from the roundabout going up the hill is 35 mph. The city likes to have speed limits as consistent as possible. So setting a temporary speed limit of 35 above this would be wise. Part of this road is the county, and Mr. Slovarp is working with the County.

Moved by: Julie Merritt

Authorize the Mayor to direct PW&M staff to conduct a speed study for Upper Miller Creek Drive between the Missoula County Line and Jeff Drive, and set a temporary speed limit for the same at 35 mph.

AYES: (10): Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra, John Contos, Heather Harp, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka, and Heidi West

ABSENT: (2): Jesse Ramos, and Bryan von Lossberg

Vote results: Approved (10 to 0)

4. ADJOURNMENT